REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding grounds of rejection is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the remarks which follow.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Darby. The Examiner regards the vertical component (see Figure 1) between passages 24 and 75 as the claimed shield, noting the curved inlet portion and the seal teeth at the radially inner portion of the shield.

In reviewing Darby, it is apparent that the component or shield relied upon by the Examiner is no more than that which is described as prior art and shown in Figure 1 of the instant application. In accordance with this invention, the gas shield profile is optimized to extend the annular ring beyond the fan inlet and towards the armature bars. The shield thus leads the cooling flow along its aerodynamically smooth surface to cool the armature bars. The addition of ventilation holes at the end of the gas shield serve as gas nozzles to impinge the cooling gas directly on the series of loop cap surfaces.

By this amendment, applicant has amended independent claim 1 to clarify that the shield includes a first free end of a first diameter; a curved inlet portion; a substantially axial portion of a second diameter surrounding a second opening; and a curved outlet portion terminating at a second free end of a third diameter smaller than the first diameter but greater than the second diameter. This language finds support on page 7 of the specification as well as in Figures 2 and 3 of the drawings. In this regard, applicant has amended page 7 of the specification to refer to the free end 54 as having a "third"

diameter in order to maintain consistency of language in both the specification and claims.

The amended claim now effectively requires that the free end 54 is curved back in a radial outward direction so that it may direct the cooling gas flow along the outlet portion 52 to cool the armature bars. There is clearly no such arrangement in Darby. Accordingly, Darby does not anticipate the subject matter of any of claims 1, 3 and 4.

The Examiner has rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over Darby in view of Yoshizaki (JP0029341).

The Examiner relies upon the secondary reference as disclosing a bracket type shield having a plurality of holes for the purpose of suction of cooling air.

By definition, a gas shield is used to separate the low pressure side of the rotor fan from the high pressure side. Yoshizaki refers to element 3 as "a bracket" rather than a shield, because the bracket 3 has no such function of separating low and high pressure sides and, in fact, has nothing to do with a rotor fan.

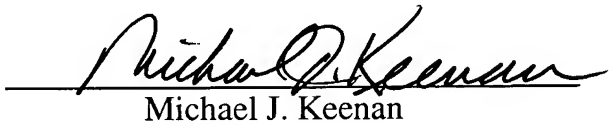
In any event, since Yoshizaki fails to remedy the deficiencies of Darby in connection with the subject matter of claim 1 from which claim 2 depends, the combination of Darby and Yoshizaki is insufficient to evidence the obviousness of the subject matter of dependent claim 2.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 are now in condition for immediate allowance, and early passage to issue is respectfully requested. Previously non-elected claims 5-11 have been cancelled, applicant receiving the right to file a Divisional

application for prosecution of these claims. In the event, however, any small matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned so that the prosecution of this application can be expeditiously concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
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